



UNPLANNED LAND UTILIZATION AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF SLUM DWELLERS OF KALIKA COLONY OF JAMMU CITY AND ITS IMPACT ON URBAN LIFE

KEYWORDS

Slums, Unplanned Land utilization, unhygienic environment, migration, major issue, basic amenities, family congestion etc

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ABSTRACT India is one of the largest country in the world. There is a great disparity in not only in its morphological structure but in socio-economic and in other cultural aspects as well. On the one hand we have world largest cities; on the other hand we have largest slum areas as well like Dharavi in Mumbai. Slums in Jammu city rise day by day. Slum of kalika colony in Bawe area are very congested and the environmental conditions of the slum are very poor. Migration from villages to cities creates many socio-economic problems. The density of population of cities rises and civic amenities fall short of needs. Law and order situation deteriorates. Prices of essential commodities rise. Housing situation become acute and rents soar. New entrants start living on pavements and thatched huts and slum develops. Basic amenities like electricity, potable water, toilets may be lacking in slums and there is no drainage. Heaps of garbage is found here and there .Hygienic conditions are not there-thus slum dweller fall easy prey to diseases like cholera, malaria, jaundice etc. During rainy season; it is real hell for slum dweller. Houses in the form of huts, thatched huts, Juggies, tents etc are very closely spaced and very dense with population. Parents, Grandparents and children all are living in a single tent. Some families have even more than 20 persons in single hut of 1 Marla. It leads to many ill and mental problems of their children. Slums are considered to be the major issue within many urban areas.

INTRODUCTION

Slums have been regarded as a major problem of urbanization. Whereas no Indian city is free from slums. Slums are known by different terms in different regions;Katra,gallis,Juggis Jhlopdi(Delhi),Chawls (in Bombay),chatas(in Kanpur),Bustees (in Kolkata),Cheris(in Mumbai) Keris (in Bangladesh) and Petas (in AP).

The most pressing environmental health problems today, in terms of disease, illness, disabilities and even death are associated with poor households and communities in the developing worlds. In rural areas, and in the peri-urban slums of the developing world, inadequate shelter, overcrowding, lack of adequate safe drinking water and sanitation, contaminated food, absence of basic amenities and indoor pollution are the greatest threats to human health. Slums are a universal phenomenon and are product of urban explosion which has accompanied industrialization and has caused physical and social stress to the urban milieu, particularly in the developing countries which have failed to cope up with the ever increasing Rural-Urban stream and haphazard growth of urban morphology. They are stark realities of our urban milieu and deserve serious attention in view of their economic and social challenges for urban development and planning.

United Nations has defined slums as, "buildings, group of buildings or area characterised by over-crowding, deterioration in sanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which, because of these conditions or any of them, endanger the health, safety or morals of its inhabitants or the community". Slums have created many social problems which have posed serious challenges for urban development and planning. They shelter large chunk of urban amenities and facilities who act certainly as a dead weight for social development.

Main causes of slums are as follows:

1. Rural-urban migration
2. Rapid industrialization
3. Shortage of housing
4. Inadequacy of resources
5. Unplanned growth of urban morphology.

Every year, there is influx of migration from rural to urban areas in search of better income and comfort. Migration may be inter-state or intra-state. It includes both skilled workers such as carpenter, painter, cobbler; masons etc. while unskilled include labourers. Along with these migrants, there is transfer of poverty from rural areas to urban areas.

Study Area

The present study deals with the area of kalika colony, which lies at the bottom part of the Bawe town in Jammu city. This area is only 50 metres away from the University of Jammu. There is one nallah which drains sewage from upper part of the area. Along this nallah, there develops a slum which comprises more than 800 families of poor people. Most of the slum dwellers are from outside the state and living here for more than 30-40 years. This area is situated between 32 71' north latitude to 32 72' north latitudes and 74 87' east longitudes to 7488' east longitudes respectively.

Locational Map

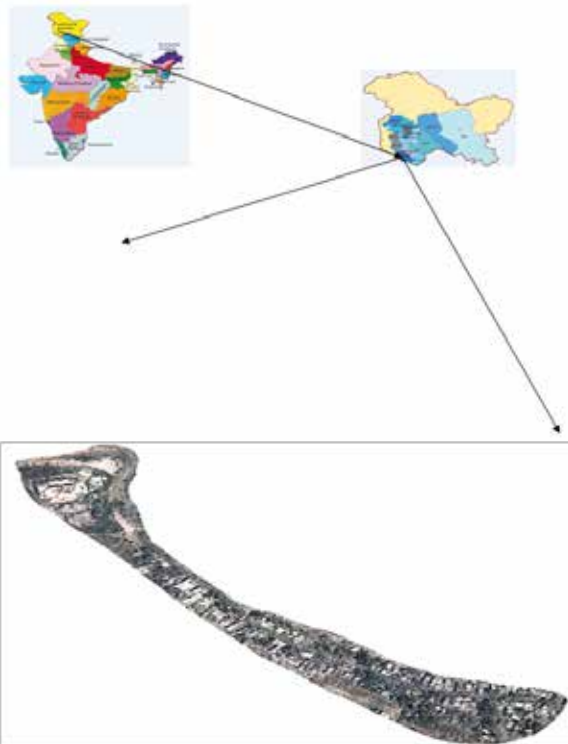


Figure-1

Methodology:

A door to door survey has been conducted to study the living conditions among the slum dwellers of Kalika Colony area of Jammu city. All the slum dwellers are migrants from different states. Data was collected from primary as well as secondary sources. The primary data was generated through field works, surveys using questionnaire and by interviewing the people. The total number of households covered in the study area was 300 and total population was 2560. The secondary data was collected from various governmental as well as non- governmental agencies. To analyse the data, collected information was classified. The classified data was tabulated and percentage was calculated for the same.

Living environment of slum dwellers:

Living environment means the actual concrete living conditions which among other things, includes the material used to construct houses, the types of houses, the living space, household hygiene, personal hygiene, use and storage of water and host of other material conditions which have a direct bearing on health.

Table No.1- Housing conditions:

Type of houses	Number in %	Living space	Number in %	Source of cooking energy	In %	Type of floor	In %	Person in numbers shared	Room shared in %
Kutchra	0	1 Marla	45	Coal	0	Rough And damp	80	1	0

Pucca	30	2Mar-la	35	LPG	20	Ce-ment-ed	10	2-4	20
Huts	70	3Mar-la	15	Kero-sene	10	Any other	10	4 or more	80
		4Mar-la	5	Fuel Food	70				

Sources: Data collected from sample survey

Housing conditions constitute important variable. Inadequate housing stock and poor housing conditions create lot of environmental hazards. It can be seen from the table that 45% percent of the sample has very small living space of 1 Marla and similar to that again 35% has living space of 2 Marlas. 15% of the sample has the living space of 3marlas and remaining sample of 5% has the living space of 4 Marlas. Also 30% of the people lives in pucca houses and remaining 70% lives in huts. By looking into the table it can be said that majority of the sample i.e. 70% of the sample use fuel wood as a main source of cooking while remaining 30% of the sample use kerosene and LPG as a source of cooking. It may be because of their economic conditions to afford for LPG connections.



Figure-2

The above are self explanatory presenting the living environment in the slums. Not to speak of cleanliness, spacious, safe both in terms of health and wealth, basic amenities like drinking water, proper housing, roads etc which are dreams words they can never expect under the prevailing situation. The above figure also presenting that the conditions of the houses is miserable and they develop their huts along the road of kalika colony. Children play in this narrow road for the whole day and remain in dirt and dust. It affects not only their health but mental illness as well.

Table No.2-Hygienic and sanitary conditions

Sewage system	No in %	Disposal of waste	Number in %	Toilet facility	Number in %	Personal hygiene	Number in %

Good	Nil	Front of house	20	Within house	40	Bath every-day	60
Satisfactory	Nil	Back-side	80	Out-side house	10	Bath after 2 day	30
Bad need improvement	100	Public dust-bin	Nil	Public	Nil	Bath weekly	10
		Drainage	Nil	Shared	Nil		
				Open defecation	50		

Sources: Data collected from sample survey.

It can be seen from the above data that all the persons throw the waste in the backside of their houses. This is the sad state of affair which is affecting the city environment to maximum extent. The possible reason for this may be lack of efforts from the corporation to collect the garbage especially from the slums, lack of infrastructure necessary for garbage disposal as there is no corporation vehicle available for garbage disposal. This is also due to lack of awareness among the slum people about dangers posed by un-disposed accumulated solid waste. 100% of the sample has revealed that sewage system in the locality is bad and need improvement. There is one small nallah which brings sewage and other waste from the upper areas of the study region passes through the middle of the slum. This nallah is full of smell and even the people of the slum used this nallah for disposal of wastes and pipes of latrines are openly connected with the nallah. This is main problem and crucial issue of the slum as because of this nallah, many contagious problems can be emerged.

Personal hygiene is considered a very important factor having a bearing on health. Taking bath every day is the best way of keeping high personal hygiene. It can be seen from the table that 60% of the sample take bath everyday as they are the aware of the fact to maintain personal hygiene. 30 % of the sample takes bath after two days and 10% take bath weekly. There is no any kind of corporation vehicle which disposed the material from slum dwellers.

From the point of view of clean environment, community hygiene and personal hygiene, toilet and bathroom facilities play a very important role. In several slums, due to lack of latrine facilities slum people defecate in open air and majority of children do so. This fact is evident from the data that 50% of the sample go for open defecation. The remaining 40% of the sample have toilet facilities within their house and left 10% use toilet facilities outside their house. There is no latrine facilities which can be uti-

lized by all the residential of the study region.



Figure-3

The above figure throws light on the existing drainage system in the slum. One can see that it is open and running in front and backside of the houses with a lot of filth in it leading to a number of health risks. Even the latrine pipes are directly connected with this small nallah. It has a great affect on the health of the residing people. Drainage is running in between two lanes of the houses. People are forced to live with this. The houses being constructed by the slum dwellers do not give adequate attention to safety and sanitary condition.

Open drainage is not only dangerous to children but also becomes breeding place for mosquitoes, pigs and street dogs which often spread the diseases. The women are engaged in their daily household chores along the drainage itself. Even the children are inevitably made to play there. Let with no alternative even children are forced to play near this drainage which might risk their life as they can fall in to the drainage while playing over there.



Figure-4

The above picture shows the dump of waste material along the slum. As the area is so congested and the running of this business in it is very dangerous as it leads to many sanitary and other problems.

Table No.3-Drinking water status

Drinking water status	Number in %	Sources of drinking water	Number in %	Awareness about water pollution	Number in %
Within house	30	Taps	Nil	Yes	20
Outside house	70	Wells	Nil	No	80
		Common taps	100		
		Hand pumps	Nil		

Sources: Data collected from sample survey.

Another variable which could reflect the health condition of the people is safe drinking water. It is evident from the data that 30% of the sample has drinking water facility within their house while 70% of the population have it outside their house. Majority of the percentage of the sample draws water from the community taps. This clearly indicates that there is still lack of basic amenities in slums. Lack of individual taps is due to the non-availability of sufficient safe drinking water. The awareness of causes and ill effects of the water pollution was reported to be negligible as only 20% of the sample is aware of it.

Housing issue has become number one necessity of slum dwellers which has served dimensions-Urban land ,health and hygiene, security , welfare and concentration of population leading to political and social tensions. With the effective role of local politicians and social workers, local administrators and voluntary organizations. Slum dwellers if provided with source of income and shelter with private latrines and decent infrastructural facilities, could be able to improve their quality of life and ensure peaceful and cooperative community living .slums in small towns could be better places with new perspective and housing plans for their dwellers. There are mostly whose housing conditions is very measureable.

Migration

Migration plays a very crucial role in the slum formation. As we know that most of the slum dwellers are not the native of their residential areas. They basically come here from different regions due to different circumstances. In the process of migration both 'push' and 'pull' factors has dominant role.

In the slum of study area more than 90% are from outside the state and they are residing in Jammu and Kashmir for more than 40 years. Some houses which are the native residential of this area are surrounded now from this slum. All the slum dwellers are from village areas of Rajasthan, Haryana and from parts of UP and Bihar. During our door to door survey they informed us that they have come here because of push factor. Maximum of them have engaged themselves in labourers and other man work like labour, driver, painter conductor etc. Their literacy level is very low and no one among them even reaches up to secondary level. Family is so congested and big and even they are not aware about the small family norms. Child marriage is still prevalent in them as they marriage their children before they complete their minimum age for marriage. Increase in size of slum population and increase in number of slums have been due to rural urban migration. Urban poverty is thus an outgrowth of rural poverty. Urban poor are highly vulnerable and they pose serious threat not only to environment but to the whole society.

Land use planning in urban areas

The rapid urbanization of the last century caused more slums in the major cities of the world particularly in developing countries like in Asia and Africa. Planning resources and strategies are needed to address the problems of slum development. When urban planners work on slums, they must cope with racial and cultural differences to ensure that racial steering does not occur. Slums were often fixed by clearance. However, more creative solutions are beginning to emerge such as Nairobi's "Camp of Fire" program, where established slum-dwellers promise to build proper houses, schools and community centres without government money, squatting on for 30 years. The "Camp

of Fire" program is one of many similar projects initiated by slum Dwellers International, which has programs in Africa, Asia and South-America.

Integrating Housing and Slum Development Programme aims at combining the existing schemes of Valmiki Amedkar Awas Yojana(VAMBAY) and National Slum Development Programme .(NSDP) an integrated approach in ameliorating the conditions of the urban slum dwellers who do not possess adequate shelter and reside in dilapidated conditions. Apply to all towns and cities covered under Jawahar Lal Nehru National urban renewal Mission (JNNURM). The scheme seeks to ensure public and private investment in housing and infrastructural development in urban areas.

Urban planning in India is largely concerned with development of land; it would be relevant to briefly consider how perceptions about land and real estate property have evolved. In the development management the efficiency can be brought about by making the land available easily at reasonable prices at appropriate time and location. In fact the urban development process hinges on the availability of land. Survey should be conducted for the better use of land for better development of the urban areas. Number of new resettlement colonies may be developed in accordance with the above survey where ever open space is available in Jammu city.

Strict legal measures should be imposed on the resettlement allottees on selling their plots. If someone sells his or her plot they should be punished. Vacant land after shifting Jhuggis should be protected from encroachment and put under new use without delay. New resettlement colonies should be developed in accordance with the town planning norms and space standards to provide better shelter and quality of life. One job for one member of family may be assured to make rehabilitation programme economically viable and attractive.

Conclusion and suggestions

The preceding discussion reveals that the problems of slum dwellers are fast assuming and have become a symbol of urban decay and poverty. Some of the serious problems are bad housing, employment in low paid unskilled and informal sector barely enough to permit survival, inaccessibility to essential civic facilities and deteriorating health conditions. Some of the measures to tackle the problems of slum dwellers include:

1. Identifying the high migration areas for taking up employment generation schemes and thereby minimising the migration to large cities. Rural and cottage industries such as rice-milling, garment industry, cotton and wool industry need to be upgraded with subsidies and incentives, which will prevent the migration from the native town to other states.
2. Providing security of tenure for successful implementation of slum up gradation programmes.
3. Devising the programmes for upgrading skills and thereby increasing income levels.
4. Involving voluntary organisations for educating slum dwellers in maintaining their localities.
5. Granting home improvement loans and taking up low cost housing schemes for improving housing situation.
6. Since industries are largely responsible for forming slums, therefore providing housing to industrial workers should be a pre- condition for issuing license for setting up industries.
7. As most of the people of the study area were found

to be unaware about the problems associated with the environment and are unwilling victims of the pollution at their house and at the working sites, there is urgent need to make these people aware about the cause and effect relationship of environmental problems

8. The promotion of education will help in the overall development of slum dwellers and will also make them aware about their rights and to a greater extent will improve the conditions of the poor and illiterate especially women. Large number of programmes has been launched by the Government such as NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), IAY (Indira Awaas Yojna) etc. for the upliftment of the poor and to increase their purchasing power but due to illiteracy and unawareness, most of these schemes become futile.

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